

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NOFORN

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN SHOULD 478 VICE 428)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NO

SUBJ: NARWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARY NATO TOUR: BACKGROUND INFO
FOR BRIEFING

REF: OSLO 0218

1. BRIEFING OFFICERS MAY FIND FOLLOWING GUIDANCE
USEFUL IN PREPARATION OF PRESENTATIONS FOR NORWEGIAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS DURING VISIT ACTION ADDRESSEES FEB 26-
MAR 2 ON POST-SPONSORED NATO TOUR.

2. PROGRAMS FOR RECENT POST-SPONSORED PARLIAMENTARY
GROUPS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT, AND WE HOPE
THAT BRIEFINGS WILL AGAIN BE GEARED TO SENIOR VIP
LEVEL IN VIEW PARTICULARLY OUTSTANDING CALIBER THIS
GROUP WHICH WILL INCLUDE A FORMER PRIMEMINISTER.

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3. IN ADDITION TO THROUGH COVERAGE OF ISSUES NORMALLY INCLUDED IN HIGH LEVEL BRIEFINGS (MBFR, CSCE, NATO STANDARDIZATION, SOVIET THREAT, U.S. DEFENSE POLICY AND RELATIONS WITH ALLIES, ETC.), WE URGE YOU CONSIDER FOLLOWING ISSUES, WHICH OFTEN NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD OR APPRECIATED IN NORWAY:

A. SPAIN. NORWEGIANS ACROSS ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE LONG REACTED WITH EMOTION TO SUBJECT OF SPAIN. WITH FRANCO'S DEATH, THE PRIMARY SYMBOL OF NORWEGIAN OPPOSITION TO SPAIN IS GONE AND NORWAY IS TAKING MORE OPEN VIEW OF SPAIN AND EXPLORING POLICY ALTERNATIVES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH COOPERATIVE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC APPROACHES. WE BELIEVE THIS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE TIME EMPHASIZE TO POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING THOSE ON NATO TOUR, THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND NORTHERN FLANK. SPECIFIC POINTS COULD COVER:

(1) BACKGROUND ON STRATEGIC/MILITARY CONTRIBUTION OF U.S. FACILITIES IN SPAIN POINTING OUT INTERDEPENDENCE OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANK SECURITY AND REVIEWING CURRENT STATUS OF U.S. SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION.
(2) IF APPROPRIATE, SOME LOW KEY COMMENTARY ON PROSPECTS AND U.S. VIEWS RE EVOLVING SITUATION IN SPAIN.

B. WESTERN COMMUNISTS. LEFT WING RULING LABOR PARTY DOES NOT APPEAR OVERLY CONCERNED AT IDEA OF POSSIBLE COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND FRANCE AS LONG AS THEY WILLING ADHERE TO SO-CALLED DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. WE SUGGEST FULLY EXPLANATION U.S. OPPOSITION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO (PARLIAMENTARIANS THEMSELVES MAY RAISE THIS QUESTION).

C- IMPROVED POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. DOUBT THAT THESE PARLIAMENTARIANS FULLY AWARE EXTENT OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN NATO. NORWEGIANS ARE USUALLY SURPRISED AND PLEASED BY AMOUNT OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN NATO FORUM. THEY FIND CONSULTATIONS MORE VALUABLE IN VIEW OF THEIR NON-MEMBERSHIP IN COMMON MARKET. EMPHASIS
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ON NATURE AND EXTENT OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WILL HELP STRENGTHEN THEIR BELIEF IN IMPORTANCE NORWAY'S CONTINUED NATO MEMBERSHIP.

4. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE SHORT PRESENTATION ON AWACS WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, INASMUCH AS PARLIAMENT MUST ENDORSE AND FUND ANY MOD DECISION TO PARTICIPATE.

5. EMBASSY OSLO FULLY COGNIZANT OF AND GRATEFUL OF
PAINSTAKING PREPARATION THAT HAS MADE THESE VISITS SO
SUCCESSFUL IN ENHANCING NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-
STANDING OF NATO AND ROLE OF U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE.
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